

**Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area
Year 2003
End of Year Report**

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I. Introduction

The Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area (CBWMA) has been together since 1995. The cooperative was created to bring together those responsible for weed management within the Clearwater River Basin, to develop common management objectives, facilitate effective treatment, integrate weed programs and coordinate efforts along logical geographic boundaries with similar lands, use patterns and problem weeds.

The CBWMA covers an area of approximately 6 million acres in north central Idaho. The area extends east to west from Montana to Washington State. The CBWMA is bordered on the south by the Salmon River-WMA and on the north by the Palouse-WMA.

The weed management area is divided into three sub-basins. Each year an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is developed for each sub-basin within the Clearwater River Basin. An Annual Operating Plan outlines management actions and activities that the cooperators agree to accomplish for the current year. The AOP guides implementation of the Strategic Plan and is designed to establish the yearly actions that contribute to weed management objectives and priorities of the basin. Accomplishments are reported by Sub-basin.

Each sub-basin selects two representatives to serve on the basin-wide Steering Committee, which coordinates sub-basin activities, maintains the CRBWMA Long Range Strategy and consolidates reports, information and funding requests. Sub-basins and the selected representatives are as follows:

Mainstem – Kim Cannon and Doug Shaller
North Fork – Dennis Williams and Suzanne Qualmann
South Fork – Leonard Lake and Carl Crabtree

The following goals guide the development of specific strategies, objectives and priorities that have been integrated into annual management activities:

- Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants into and within the Clearwater River Basin.
- Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds and invasive plants to a point that natural resource damage is within acceptable limits.
- Implement the most economical and effective control methods for the target weeds.
- Implement an integrated management system using all appropriate available methods or a combination of methods.

The major weeds of importance in the area include Dalmatian toad flax, diffuse knapweed, yellow toadflax, rush skeleton weed, spotted knapweed, orange hawkweed, meadow hawkweed, scotch thistle, scotch broom, and yellow star thistle. Major efforts are being made to control these weeds each year.

The Chairperson of the Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area is Leonard Lake, Rangeland Management Specialist for the Clearwater National Forest, with Doug Shaller, Weed Superintendent with Lewis County Weed Control as Vice Chair, and Dan Pierce, RC & D Coordinator, USDA-NRCS as secretary. Cooperators in the CWMA include private landowners, county government, tribal government, university, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

II. Summary of Year 2003 Projects

This year was a year of coming together and organization for the Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area, as well as a year of solid field productivity. The following were the primary accomplishments this year:

Executive Coordinator

In 2002, the CBWMA underwent a strategic planning process, which identified the need for an Executive Coordinator due to the size, and growing complexity of the CBWMA. The Steering Committee established a position description, advertised, and interviewed candidates for the position. An Executive Coordinator was selected in May and began her tenure at the beginning of July. Since that time, two Steering Committee meetings have taken place as well as two sub basin meetings. The Executive Coordinator develops meeting agendas and facilitates meetings, coordinates activities of CBWMA steering and sub-basin committees and ensures follow-up on assigned tasks and actions. The position coordinates with the Treasurer to prepare and present necessary monthly and quarterly progress and financial reports to the CBWMA steering committee and grant sponsors. The Coordinator assists in the development of cost-share and other grant requests, coordinates grants submissions, and maintains meeting notes, records and organizational files as directed by the steering committee. **The Executive Coordinator position was funded by an ISDA Cost Share grant.**

Highlighted Projects

TREATMENT

Treatment/Eradication of New Invaders

Highlight: Idaho Weed Control and Nez Perce National Forest took the lead during the 2003 field season to focus resources on the eradication of new invasive plants to the South SubBasin. The University of Idaho Early Detection Team assisted the South SubBasin (est. 100 person hrs) with early detection/eradication survey of three weeds in the Lochsa and South Fork Clearwater drainages. The team surveyed for Leafy spurge, yellow toadflax, and meadow hawkweed. These surveys were a critical component of the eradication process implemented in the subbasin. **The Early Detection project was funded by an ISDA Cost Share grant**

Treatment of Isolated New Infestations

Highlight: Trails in the backcountry act as a spread vector in a similar manner as roads in developed areas. Most weeds in the backcountry have entered along the trail network. Therefore, it becomes critical that weeds are detected and treated along the trails prior to spread into the wildlands. The Back Country Horsemen of North Central Idaho provided early treatment of satellite infestation along a series of trails in the Selway watershed. Approximately, 22 miles of trails were treated in the lower Selway drainage along with key trailheads and campgrounds.



Back Country Horseman treating weeds on the Nez Perce NF

Highlight: Landowners in the Harris Ridge area have recognized that without significant effort starthistle could dominate their land, east of Kooskia. Through local leadership, the Harris Ridge project was designed to aurally treat the satellite infestations and advancing front. Helicopter application was necessary, due to the extremely rough terrain. This work is important to protect private lands and to protect south facing breaklands leading towards the Lochsa and Selway rivers. This action establishes the eastern control zone within the Clearwater Basin. **The Harris Ridge project was funded by an ISDA Cost Share grant.**

Treatment to Control Weeds Along Key Transportation networks and High Human Use Areas

Highlight: The transportation network is the primary vector for weed spread in the South Fork SubBasin. Idaho Transportation department and Idaho County has taken the lead to aggressively treat target invasive plants along key transportation complexes across the subbasin.

Highlight: Moose Creek Ranger District in partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe Biocontrol Center and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation continued to supplement existing knapweed biological control activities within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, with emphasis toward burned areas that were highly susceptible to knapweed colonization and expansion. The areas of treatment were in elk winter range that burned during the summer 2001. The release sites were along the main Selway River corridor west of Moose Creek and in Grouse Creek/Running Creek area. This is an on going strategy of releasing large numbers of insects in priority areas in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Since 2001 approximately 116 releases have been made in the wilderness area.



EDUCATION/AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

South Fork SubBasin

- Provided presentations at district staff, hunter patrol, and employee meetings.
- Idaho County Fair booth
- Susceptibility modeling and risk assessment of weed spread were completed for the Blacktail project. Approximately 20,000 acres.
- Road signs were established at main road portals notifying the public of certified hay requirements.
- Weed posters were established at campgrounds and trailheads.

North Fork SubBasin

- Distributed integrated pest management information to employees and public user groups
- Clearwater County Fair booth
- Hosted weed IPM training workshops
- Maintained informational bulletin boards in various Clearwater County sites

Mainstem SubBasin

- Nez Perce County, Lewis County Fair, and Latah County Fair booths
- Weed articles in NPSWCD newsletters
- Worked with private landowners to identify weeds on their properties and develop pest management plans
- Distributed identification and control information about diffuse knapweed to landowners in the Paradise Acres Subdivision
- Distributed IPM information with all new building permits for development in new subdivisions



- Orofino Farm and Forest Fair booth
- Held tech transfer workshops and distributed yellow star thistle biological control information and revegetation options to the public

PREVENTION PRACTICES

South Fork SubBasin

- Certified 1000 tons of Hay and Straw
- Gravel pit certification process was implemented during road construction/maintenance program
- Contract clauses for washing equipment were integrated into new timber contracts
- Required washing of equipment under contract for road obliteration

North Fork SubBasin

- Required weed free forage, mulch, and seed on National Forest lands
- Reseeded roads within Timber Sale contracts
- Put "Yellow Starthistle Fighter" seed on some Clearwater County right of ways

Mainstem SubBasin

- Maintained weed free gravel pits
- Required revegetation of all disturbed areas in all contracts
- Used only certified weed free straw in wildlife management practices (goose boxes)



INVENTORY AND EARLY ALERT EMPHASIS

Highlight: Student Conservation Association Inventory Crew Three 3-person crews from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) surveyed portions of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness for a 12-week period. Crews sampled predetermined areas based on the results of a pre-season analysis. A Forest Service contact from each Forest was assigned to assist the crews. Crews were moved to various locals during the field season to focus on priority areas. The Forest Service provided logistical support in the backcountry along with training and technical support. Corporate sponsors included Trimble Inc and ESRI which provided necessary digital field recorders, software and GPS equipment to the SCA crews. Results of the invasive plant survey are stored in the Forest Service Corporate Database and are available to the cooperative weed management area, the local community and other agencies.

South Fork SubBasin

- Completed weed survey along 300 miles of road in the upper Lochsa drainage
- Completed weed survey along 80 miles of the Lolo motorway
- Meadow and Orange hawkweed surveys were completed in the McComas Meadow area
- Updated the GIS weed cover and plant database for the South Fork Clearwater and Selway

North Fork SubBasin

- Inventoried jointed goat grass in Black Canyon and Deception Gulch areas

Mainstem SubBasin

- SubBasin wide inventory of white bryony
- SubBasin wide inventory of hoary cress
- Inventory of Big Canyon watershed

- Inventory of Lapwai watershed
- Inventory of Italian thistle in Jacks Canyon area

MONITORING

South Fork SubBasin

- Completed Yellow starthistle fly monitoring in the lower watershed
- Reread 6 weed-spread transects along the breaklands of the SF Clearwater River
- Post Treatment monitoring was conduct on 50 treatment sites

North Fork SubBasin

- Followed up on all treatments of new invaders
- Post release monitoring of biocontrol releases for knapweed and yellow star thistle

Mainstem SubBasin

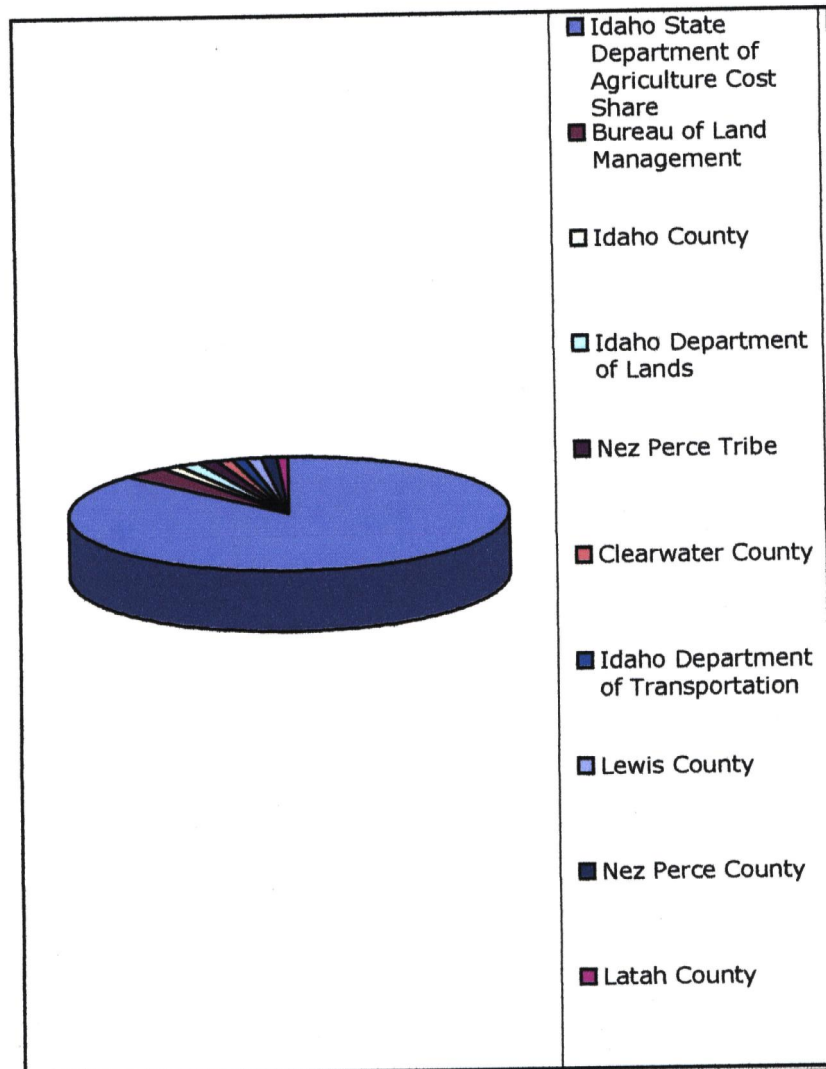
- Followed up on hawkweed treatments at Talmaks
Followed up on all treatments of new invaders to measure effectiveness

III. CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPEDITURES

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

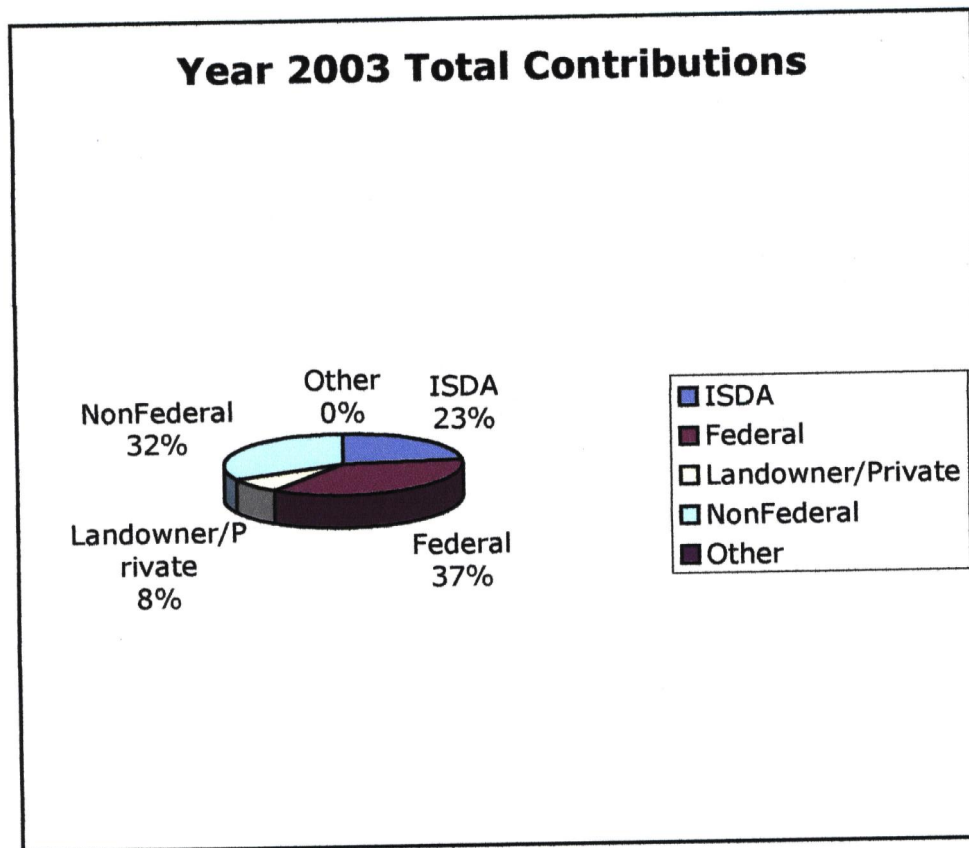
The following pie chart shows a break down of all cash contributions obtained for the Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area in the 2003 season. A total of \$32,000 was received. The contributions break down as follows:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Cost Share	\$27,850
Bureau of Land Management	1,000
Idaho County	500
Idaho Department of Lands	500
Nez Perce Tribe	500
Clearwater County	350
Idaho Department of Transportation	350
Lewis County	350
Nez Perce County	350
Latah County	250
Total Contributions	\$32,000



TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following pie chart shows a break down of cash funds, contributed time, equipment, and supplies for the Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area. \$91,180 was contributed (matching dollars) by cooperators and individuals. This totaled \$119,030 for the 2003 season.



Appendix I

Steering Committee

Chairman	Vice Chair	Secretary
Leonard Lake	Doug Shaller	Dan Pierce
Nez Perce National Forest	Lewis County	USDA-NRCS
Grangeville, ID	Nez Perce, ID	Moscow, ID
208 983-4099	208 937-9238	208 883-4239
llake@fs.fed.us	pzw@lewiscountyid.org	crcdc@moscow.com

Paul Brusven	Kim Cannon	Carl Crabtree
Nez Perce Tribe	Nez Perce Tribe	Idaho County
Lapwai, ID	Lapwai, ID	Grangeville, ID
208 843-9373	208 843-7391	208 983-0251
pbrusven@nezperce.org	kcannon@nezperce.org	ccrabtree@idahocounty.org
Dick Hodge (Treasurer)	Dean Huibregtse	Rik Osborn
Clearwater RC & D	BLM	ITD
Moscow, ID	Cottonwood, ID	Lewiston, ID
208 883-4239	208 962-3275	208 799-4302
djhodge@turbonet.com	Dean_Huibregtse@blm.gov	rosborn@itd.state.id.us

Tim Prather	Dennis Williams
University of Idaho	Clearwater County
Moscow, ID	Orofino, ID
208 885-7760	208 476-4918
tprather@uidaho.edu	ccweeddept@orofino-id.com

Appendix II

Project Summaries:

Project name	Weed species	Acres treated
Treatment of New Invaders	Dalmation toadflax	9.6
	Diffuse Knapweed	31
	Meadow Hawkweed	4.1
	Orange Hawkweed	69.35
	Leafy Spurge	30.85
	Hoary Cress	10
	Scotch Broom	4.6
	Rush Skeletonweed	3.5
	Poison Hemlock	1
	Yellow Toadflax	10
Treatment of Isolated New Infestations,	Spp. Mixture	1500
Transportation Corridors, and High Human	Orange Hawkweed	10
Use Areas	Meadow Hawkweed	1
	Scotch Thistle	3
	Spotted Knapweed	953
	Puncturevine	1
	Perennial Peavine	19
	Japanese Knotweed	1
	Yellow Starthistle	518.5
Treatment to Control and/or Reduce Density of	Canada Thistle	391
Established Infestations	Bull Thistle	5
	Annual Grasses	1
	Spotted Knapweed	6000
	Yellow Starthistle	255,000
	Japanese Knotweed	56